# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	) CASE NO: 13-MJ-2857
	)
Plaintiff,	) CRIMINAL
	)
vs.	) Albuquerque, New Mexico
	)
LEHABIM ULISES MORENO-RUE	BIO, ) Thursday, September 12,201
	)
Defendant.	) (9:59 a.m. to 10:22 a.m.)

#### DETENTION / PRELIMINARY HEARING

## BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. SCOTT, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Appearances: See Next Page

Court Reporter: Recorded; Liberty (ABQ-Hondo)

Clerk: C. Lopez

Interpreter: B. Korp-Edwards

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Corpus Christi, TX 78480-8668

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### **APPEARANCES FOR:**

Plaintiff: REEVE SWAINSTON, ESQ.

U.S. Attorney's Office District of New Mexico

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Defendant: JOHN ROBBENHAAR, ESQ.

Office of the Federal Public Defender

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U.S. Probation/Pretrial: Robert Sanchez

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GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS
Jerald Perry	5	13		

# Albuquerque, NM; Thursday, September 12, 2013; 9:59 a.m. (Interpreter Utilized for Translation)

2 (Call to Order)

- THE CLERK: United States of America versus Lehabim
  Ulises Moreno-Rubio.
- 5 MR. SWAINSTON: Reeve Swainston for the United 6 States.
- 7 MR. ROBBENHAAR: Good morning, your Honor. John 8 Robbenhaar on behalf of Mr. Moreno-Rubio, who is present.
- 9 **THE COURT:** Good morning, counsel. We'll let you get
  10 him situated next to you --
- 11 MR. ROBBENHAAR: Thank you, sir.
- 12 **THE COURT:** -- at defense table. We are scheduled
- 14 Government ready to proceed?
- 15 MR. SWAINSTON: It is, your Honor. Thank you for the

this morning for a preliminary and detention hearing. Is the

- 16 Court's indulgence. Two days ago I was able to secure the
- 17 presence of the case agent, Jerald (phonetic) Perry, and he is
- 18 here today.

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- 19 **THE COURT:** You may call your first witness.
- 20 MR. SWAINSTON: Mr. Perry.
- 21 JERALD PERRY, GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, SWORN
- 22 **THE CLERK:** Thank you. Have a seat. State and spell
- 23 your last name for the record.
- 24 **THE WITNESS:** First name is Jerald, last name Perry,

- 2 seated at defense counsel table. He has an orange jumpsuit on,
- 3 has dark colored hair and has the earphones around his -- on
- 4 his ears.
- 5 MR. SWAINSTON: Indicating the Defendant for the
- 6 record, your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: The record shall so reflect.
- 8 (Witness identified Defendant)
  - BY MR. SWAINSTON:
- 10 Q Mr. Perry, would you tell his Honor briefly how it is that
- 11 you came into contact with the Defendant on that date?
- 12 A Yes, sir. Myself and another Task Force Officer, Jonathan
- 13 | Walsh Barrett (phonetic), at the Greyhound Bus Station, we
- 14 boarded an eastbound bus that makes a regularly scheduled stop
- 15 here in Albuquerque. I boarded the bus. I subsequently made
- 16 | contact with the Defendant in this case, displayed my DEA badge
- 17 to him, identified myself as a police officer, asked for and
- 18 received permission to speak with him.
- 19 Q Very well. And when you entered the bus can you tell us
- 20 approximately what time that was?
- 21 A The bus was scheduled to arrive at approximately 3:00 a.m.
- 22 | It was late. It arrived at approximately 5:10 a.m. It was
- 23 here for approximately an hour, so it was after 6:00 a.m.,
- 24 probably around 6:15, maybe 6:30 a.m. in the morning.
- 25 Q When you approached the Defendant did you notice whether

- 1 or not he was alone or with anybody else?
- 2 A He was seated in the aisle seat, so I didn't know at the
- 3 | time if he was by himself or with anyone else. But he was
- 4 seated by himself.
- 5 Q At any time did you determine whether or not he was
- 6 traveling alone or with others?
- 7 A From my belief I believe he was traveling by himself.
- 8 Q Okay. And did you have occasion to speak with the
- 9 Defendant once you came into contact with him?
- 10 A Yes, sir, I did.
- 11 O Describe that encounter for the Court.
- 12 A I displayed my badge to him, I identified myself as a
- 13 | police officer, asked for permission to speak with him, which
- 14 | he granted. Then I asked him various questions about his
- 15 travel.
- 16 Q And describe for us how that conversation played out.
- 17 A I asked him where he was traveling to. Initially he
- 18 | couldn't -- he didn't answer the question. He just handed me
- 19 his bus ticket after a pause. I opened up the bus ticket. It
- 20 revealed Fort Wayne, Indiana. At that time when he saw the bus
- 21 | ticket, he looked at it as I did, and he said Fort Wayne.
- 22 I reviewed it, returned the ticket to him. I asked
- 23 him where he was traveling from. He stated Phoenix. I asked
- 24 him if he lived in Phoenix or Fort Wayne. He stated he lived
- 25 | in Sinaloa, Mexico. I asked him if he had identification with

- 1 him. He handed me a visa border crossing card under his
- 2 correct name. I reviewed that and returned it to him.
- I subsequently asked him if he had any luggage with
- 4 him. He identified a tan colored backpack that was lying in
- 5 the empty window seat that was directly beside him. I
- 6 subsequently asked for permission to search that backpack. He
- 7 | did give me permission; he handed it to me. I conducted a
- 8 | consensual search of the backpack. It revealed water, food
- 9 | items, but no form of clothing. At that time I returned the
- 10 backpack to him. I asked him if he had any other luggage with
- 11 him above the bus or below the bus, and he stated no.
- 12 Q All right. Did you at any time after the Defendant said
- 13 | that he had no other luggage notice any other luggage in his
- 14 | vicinity?
- 15 A Yes, sir, I did.
- 16 0 Tell us about that.
- 17 A Directly one seat behind him in the overhead luggage
- 18 | compartment was a Nike branch black colored -- I'll refer to it
- 19 as a duffle bag or a sports bag. I removed that bag and
- 20 attempted to determine the ownership of it. No one in the rear
- 21 of the bus determined ownership of it. Then I approached the
- 22 Defendant in this case. He stated that the black duffle bag
- 23 did belong to him.
- 24 Q And that was after previously stating that he had no other
- 25 luggage.

- 1 A That's correct.
- 2 | Q Did he specifically deny that that bag was his initially?
- 3 A No. He just stated he didn't have any other luggage. And
- 4 then when I showed it to him and held it in my hand, he did
- 5 state that it belonged to him.
- 6 Q Okay. All right. Just so we're clear, you described a
- 7 duffle bag. Can you give us an idea of the dimensions? I'm
- 8 | thinking of a big military duffle bag maybe three feet high.
- 9 What did you see?
- 10 A No, sir. It's a little -- I say compared to the duffle
- 11 | bag that you're explaining it's a lot smaller. It's basically
- 12 | a gym bag that has a zipper on each end, a zipper that goes
- 13 around the middle, two handles that has a Velcro attachment at
- 14 | the top that you carry in your hand. It's basically maybe two
- 15 | feet long by 18 inches wide, maybe 12 inches wide.
- 16 Q Is it the kind of bag you can just throw over your back?
- 17 A Yes, sir. Like people take to the gym to work out for
- 18 | their workout clothes.
- 19 Q All right, very well. After the Defendant identified this
- 20 second bag as his bag and after you determined that no one else
- 21 | claimed ownership of it what, if anything, did you do next?
- 22 A I asked the Defendant if he would voluntarily consent for
- 23 me to search it for contraband. He did give me permission to
- 24 | search it. I set it down in the empty aisle seat directly
- 25 across from him and I unzipped it. It contained various

- 1 | clothing items, men's clothing items, and also it contained a
- 2 | black colored electronic bag. Basically it's a case or a -- I
- 3 don't know if it's a case or a holder for kind of like a
- 4 laptop, a small laptop. It has a zipper on the top.
- 5 As soon as I picked it up I felt a large bundle
- 6 inside. I unzipped it. When I unzipped it there was a large
- 7 bundle that was wrapped in clear saran wrap with various layers
- 8 of red colored type grease or transmission fluid. And I
- 9 | immediately knew from my training and experience that the
- 10 bundle and its concealment method was consistent with illegal
- 11 narcotics.
- 12 Q You had seen that many times before?
- 13 A Yes, sir, I have.
- 14 Q Was there anything with respect to this second bag that
- 15 provided any indication of who might own the bag?
- 16 A Yes, sir. On the top of the bag that had the Velcro where
- 17 | it wraps around the two handles where you can hold them
- 18 together, when you undid the Velcro it has a place for your
- 19 name. And it had a full name of the Defendant in this case,
- 20 his first, middle and two -- his hyphenated two last names
- 21 written in ink on the top of the bag.
- 22 Q Very well.
- 23 MR. SWAINSTON: The Court's indulgence for a moment.
- 24 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.
- 25 (Pause)

#### 1 BY MR. SWAINSTON:

- 2 Q After you found that bag, which based on your training and
- 3 experience you believed contained contraband what, if anything,
- 4 did you do at that point?
- 5 A At that time the Defendant was handcuffed and placed under
- 6 arrest.
- 7 Q What, if anything, did you do with respect to the item you
- 8 identified as potential contraband?
- 9 A We transported it back to the office. It was weighed. It
- 10 | weighed approximately 1.05 gross kilograms, that is with the
- 11 packaging. We cut into it. When I say "we," myself and Task
- 12 | Force Officer Walsh. It revealed a brownish colored powdery
- 13 substance that did field test positive for the presence of
- 14 heroin.
- 15 Q And without the packaging is it your estimation that it
- 16 | weighed more than 1 kilogram of heroin?
- 17 A I would estimate it's going to be very close. But in
- 18 | concurrence with the United States Attorney's Office they
- 19 suggested that we charge an A level, which it was in this case.
- 20 Q At this point we don't know and after we get a net weight
- 21 | we'll figure that out.
- 22 A Yes, sir, that's correct.
- 23 Q But in your opinion is it your position that it could
- 24 | weigh more than 1 kilogram?
- 25 A Yes, sir.

- 1 Q Okay. And it field tested positive for the presence of
- 2 heroin?
- 3 A Yes, sir, it did.
- 4 Q Very, very briefly, my understanding is that the Defendant
- 5 did provide a post-arrest statement, and in that post-arrest
- 6 statement he told you he didn't know anything about the heroin.
- 7 Is that a correct assessment of what he said?
- 8 A Yes, sir, that is correct.
- 9 Q Okay. But he did claim ownership of the bag that was in
- 10 | the -- where the heroin was contained.
- 11 A Yes. He said the bag was his, he brought it from Mexico,
- 12 and all the contents in the bag belonged to him except for the
- 13 | black zipper electronic type holder with the bundle inside.
- 14 Q Very well. Before we wrap this up on the issue of
- 15 probable cause, can you tell his Honor what, if anything, you
- 16 | noticed about the Defendant's demeanor that morning?
- 17 A He wasn't overly nervous or anything like that. Basically
- 18 | I know -- I did notice that when he -- when I showed him the
- 19 | bag and while I was searching it, which he wasn't before he
- 20 looked at me as I spoke with him when he handed me his ticket;
- 21 | but when I started searching the bag, he immediately got his
- 22 | phone out and he was -- I don't know if he was texting or he
- 23 | was doing something with his phone. He was staring straight at
- 24 | the phone. He wasn't watching me, which in my opinion I
- 25 thought was odd.

- THE COURT: Overruled. You can develop it, Counsel.
- 25 MR. ROBBENHAAR: Thank you, Judge.

- 1 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is south of the bus terminal.
- 2 BY MR. ROBBENHAAR:
- 3 Q And I think I heard you state earlier, Agent Perry, that
- 4 the layover here in this particular case was something in the
- 5 | neighborhood of an hour, maybe just a little bit longer; is
- 6 that right?
- 7 A This bus, along with all buses, are here for approximately
- 8 | an hour or an hour and five minutes unless there's some type of
- 9 delay or mechanical problem.
- 10 Q All right. During that hour, Agent Perry, did you board
- 11 | the bus in this case?
- 12 A I believe I did. I can't recall. We had worked all
- 13 night, so we boarded some of the buses. We may have boarded
- 14 | this bus. I can't recall for sure, 100 percent sure.
- 15 Q So you may have boarded the bus during the cleaning
- 16 process when all passengers were off.
- 17 A Yes, sir. I may have, yes.
- 18 Q And would that be similar to Task Force Officer Walsh?
- 19 A Yes. We were working together.
- 20 Q All right. And during that hour boarding -- excuse me --
- 21 | cleaning and fueling period did you also go into the -- under
- 22 | the bus into the cargo bays?
- 23 A If we did that, I'm not exactly sure on this specific bus.
- 24 As I stated earlier, we checked a lot of buses and I can't
- 25 remember if we did each and every bus. But that would be a

- 1 | normal procedure. But I don't know if we did on this specific
- 2 bus or not.
- 3 | Q Agent Perry, I understand -- well, it's obvious, you did
- 4 | not -- you're not the affiant in this case.
- 5 A I didn't -- no, I'm not the affiant on the Complaint.
- 6 Q Or I should say you didn't write out the Criminal
- 7 Complaint.
- 8 A Actually, I did type out the Criminal Complaint, but my
- 9 name is not on it.
- 10 Q Why is that?
- 11 A Because we had worked all night and I knew that I had a
- 12 suppression hearing in Santa Fe on Monday and Tuesday.
- 13 Q I see.
- 14 A And I knew that I wouldn't be in court for the initial and
- 15 | the preliminary hearing. So I asked the affiant if she would
- 16 come to court and do all the things she needed to do for court
- 17 for me.
- 18 Q And that's Special Agent Olmstead (phonetic); is that
- 19 right?
- 20 A Yes, sir, that's correct.
- 21 | Q All right. Now, but you typed in this Affidavit; is that
- 22 | right?
- 23 A Yes, I did type the Affidavit.
- 24 Q Did you include all the information that you were aware
- 25 of, or is this just information pertinent only to probable

- 1 | cause?
- 2 A It's just for probable cause. I believe the last
- 3 statement on the Criminal Complaint states it's just for
- 4 probable cause only.
- 5 Q Okay. Was there information that you did not include in
- 6 this Complaint that you obtained about Mr. Moreno-Rubio before
- 7 his arrival in Albuquerque?
- 8 A I don't understand your question.
- 9 Q Did you omit information in the Affidavit that you had
- 10 obtained about my client before the bus arrived in Albuquerque?
- 11 A No, there's no information that's been omitted.
- 12 Q Did you interview and search other individuals' bag on
- 13 | this particular bus?
- 14 A Yes, sir, I did.
- 15 Q You searched their bags, too?
- 16 A Yes, sir, I did.
- 17 Q Okay. And are you aware that Officer Walsh also
- 18 | interviewed and/or searched other bags on this particular bus?
- 19 A I wasn't watching Officer Walsh, but he was in the front
- 20 of the bus; I was in the rear. And I know he spoke with
- 21 | numerous other passengers. And after the Defendant was
- 22 | arrested, I did observe him search other passengers before
- 23 that.
- 24 Q Okay.
- 25 A I would assume he was doing that. That's what he normally

- 1 does.
- 2 Q Now, it's true when the passengers re-boarded the bus
- 3 after the cleaning process you were already on the bus,
- 4 | correct?
- 5 A That is correct.
- 6 Q Toward the back of the bus.
- 7 A I work at the rear and Officer Walsh -- that's our normal
- 8 | practice -- works at the front of the bus.
- 9 Q When you approached Mr. Moreno-Rubio he was seated by
- 10 himself and on the passenger -- or on the seat right next to
- 11 | him was a tan backpack; is that right?
- 12 A Yes, sir, that is correct.
- 13 Q And you asked -- after preliminarily talking to him about
- 14 travel plans, you asked for consent to search his bag and he
- 15 | gave you that consent, right?
- 16 A Yes, sir, he did.
- 17 Q And you searched the bag. You mentioned earlier in your
- 18 | testimony that there was no clothing other than food stuffs and
- 19 that kind of stuff, but no clothing; is that right?
- 20 A Yes, sir. I don't recall any other clothing.
- 21 Q Ultimately you located a bag on the overhead rack; is that
- 22 | right?
- 23 A I'm sorry, can you repeat your question?
- 24 Q After searching the tan backpack you located the duffle
- 25 bag you referred to earlier and that was on the overhead rack;

- 1 | is that right?
- 2 A No, sir, that's not correct.
- 3 Q Where was the duffle bag?
- 4 A It was there, but you asked me if I located it after I saw
- 5 the tan backpack. Actually, I had seen it earlier when I was
- 6 speaking with the passenger that was to the rear of the
- 7 Defendant. When I was speaking with them I asked about luggage
- 8 and searched luggage, and then I saw it directly above the seat
- 9 and the two passengers that were seated directly behind him.
- 10 Q Ultimately you bring the duffle bag and show it to
- 11 Mr. Moreno-Rubio, right?
- 12 A Yes. After showing it to other passengers, also.
- 13 | Q All right. And at that time when you showed it to him, he
- 14 admitted that's his bag.
- 15 A Yes, sir, he did.
- 16 Q Now, your conversation with Mr. Moreno-Rubio was in
- 17 | Spanish; is that right?
- 18 A Yes, sir, it was.
- 19 Q And Agent Perry, clearly Spanish is not your first
- 20 | language; is that right?
- 21 A That's correct.
- 22 Q Is West Virginian your first language?
- 23 A I don't believe West Virginia is actually a language.
- MR. ROBBENHAAR: Strike that, Judge. I'm sorry,
- 25 Judge.

- 1 | Q But Spanish you've learned over the past 13 years, you've
- 2 | picked up Spanish through your work; is that right?
- 3 A Yes. I'm not fluent in Spanish but I can conduct a
- 4 | consensual encounter in Spanish.
- 5 Q You mentioned in your testimony earlier, Agent, that when
- 6 you asked Mr. Moreno-Rubio if there were other luggage he
- 7 | said -- if he had other luggage he said no. Is that your
- 8 | testimony?
- 9 A Yes, sir.
- 10 Q Is there a chance, Agent Perry, that he didn't understand
- 11 your question?
- 12 A Well, there's always a chance that someone couldn't
- 13 understand the question that I asked them, but he immediately
- 14 said "no."
- 15 Q Well, but then when you showed -- when you showed him this
- 16 bag, he immediately said, "Yeah, that's my bag"; is that right?
- 17 A He did state that the bag was his once I showed it to him,
- 18 yes.
- 19 Q Now, inside this duffle bag you mentioned there's another
- 20 | bag; is that right? There's an electronic bag, this black
- 21 | zippered like a computer bag; is that right?
- 22 | A It was a computer bag. It kind of had that -- I don't
- 23 know what it's made from, but it's kind of very thin like for a
- 24 laptop.
- 25 Q Okay. And Mr. Swainston asked you after all was said and

- 1 the proceedings. THE WITNESS: Thank you. (Witness steps down) 3 THE COURT: Does the Government have any further 4 5 evidence or testimony? 6 MR. SWAINSTON: Not on probable cause, your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Does Defense care to put forward any evidence or testimony on that issue? 8 9 MR. ROBBENHAAR: No, your Honor. No argument on 10 probable cause. 11 THE COURT: Thank you. Does the Government wish to 12 make any argument? 13 MR. SWAINSTON: No, your Honor, I do not. I think 14 the testimony speaks for itself and meets the elements of the 15 offense, and we ask that the Court bind the Defendant over for 16 trial. 17 THE COURT: The Court has considered the testimony, 18 the Affidavit in support of the Complaint, and makes a finding of probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed 19 and that this Defendant committed it. 20 21 Counsel, do you wish to speak to his conditions of 22 release?
  - MR. ROBBENHAAR: Your Honor, it appears from the Pretrial Services Report that -- well, I think there's a mention of an ICE detainer at this point. My client is here in

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the United States legally; he had a visa. I don't think that precludes him from seeking conditions of release. He has zero criminal history. Obviously, this is a case that carries a presumption of detention, I understand that. But there's no other reason to believe that he is a danger to the community, and I think conditions can be fashioned. Of course, I understand the ICE detainer as it is might cause the Court to fashion -- or rule otherwise, Judge. 

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MR. SWAINSTON: Just that, your Honor, setting aside the detainer issue, which in and of itself is problematic for the Defendant, the Defendant is presumptively a flight risk and came to this country, was found in possession of a large amount of heroin, and he was traveling across our highways and has no ties to this district or this specific community. I think that he's not only a presumptive flight risk, he is inherently a flight risk and a presumptive danger to the community by virtue of his criminal conduct.

**THE COURT:** Does the Government wish to be heard?

THE COURT: The Court respectfully agrees with the Government. I don't know the circumstances of the ICE detainer. All I know is that I'm told by Pretrial Services that on September 9th, ICE placed a detainer on the Defendant and that it remains outstanding. So I'm going to remand him back to the custody of the Marshal.

MR. ROBBENHAAR: Very well. Thank you, Judge.

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I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

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March 11, 2014\_

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER